

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-24. (Canceled)

1 25. (currently amended) A method of making a circular
2 blade for cutting a moving material web, the blade having a steel
3 cutting edge, the method comprising the step of:
4 coating a surface of the cutting edge at a treatment
5 temperature between 180°C and 350°C by means of plasma with foreign
6 ions of nitrogen, carbon, molybdenum, tungsten, and/or titanium to
7 a depth between 50 μ m and 500 μ m, a portion of the molybdenum or
8 tungsten ions in the foreign ions being greater than a portion of
9 titanium ions.

1 26. (previously presented) The blade making method
2 defined in claim 25 wherein the depth is between 100 μ m and 200 μ m.

1 27. (previously presented) The blade making method
2 defined in claim 25, further comprising the step of
3 imparting to the cutting edge a hardness of 800 HV to
4 1300 HV without impairing its ductility.

1 28. (previously presented) The blade making method
2 defined in claim 27 wherein the hardness is between 900 HV and 1200
3 HV.

1 29. (previously presented) The blade making method
2 defined in claim 25 wherein at least the cutting edge is formed of
3 a heat-treated steel, a high-speed steel, or a tool steel.

1 30. (previously presented) The blade making method
2 defined in claim 25 wherein the entire blade is formed of a heat-
3 treated steel, a high-speed steel, or a tool steel.

31. (canceled)

32. (canceled)

1 33. (new) The blade making method defined in claim 25
2 wherein the treatment temperature is between 220°C and 280°C.